



**KENNETH A. GIBSON**

MAYOR  
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY  
07102

May 28, 1981

Ms. Sylvia Porter  
c/o Field Newspaper Syndicate  
30 East 42nd Street  
New York, N. Y. 10017

Dear Ms. Porter:

I have read your recent newspaper column about low-cost airlines, including the new People Express service from Newark International Airport. Your column contains this passage:

"Inconveniences? Ouch! First, PE doesn't fly in or out of the world-famous LaGuardia and Kennedy airports. It is headquartered in Newark, N.J. -- and that airport, no matter how you dress it up, is a dismal backwater across the Hudson from Manhattan."

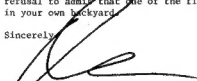
I was shocked at these remarks. I find it hard to believe that one of the most respected columnists in the nation would indulge in a cheap shot at our city, our state and our airport. I am appalled that a slur of this sort -- with no supporting evidence -- has been published in newspapers throughout the country, and might cause some travellers to shun Newark Airport.

More than 9 million passengers used Newark Airport last year -- and I doubt that many of them found it a "dismal backwater." Indeed, the investment of nearly \$500 million in this facility in the last decade by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey has transformed it into one of the most impressive and convenient terminals in the nation. It is closer to mid-Manhattan than Kennedy is, and it is handy to Amtrak and commuter rail lines, and numerous interstate and toll roads.

LaGuardia and Kennedy may be the "world-famous" to you, but Newark isn't short on reputation. It's been around a lot longer than either of the New York airports, and at one time it was the busiest commercial airport in the world. And Newark Airport has been more than "dressed up" in recent years, with the construction of three stunning new terminal complexes, and a network of access roads and parking areas. And its surroundings, I submit, are as attractive as the environs of Kennedy and LaGuardia.

Your gratuitous comments, I fear, reflect a Manhattanite prejudice, in which almost everything west of the Hudson is dismissed as a "dismal backwater." It is certainly a shame that some readers who aren't acquainted with Newark Airport of today may be misled by your myopic refusal to admit that one of the finest airports in the nation is right in your own backyard.

Sincerely,



KENNETH A. GIBSON  
Mayor

P.S. I have asked our Public Information Office to send you some material about the history and facilities of Newark Airport, so you may have some basis for any future reference to it.